

## Message Text

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S/S - MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 032133

TOSEC 123

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NICK THIMMESCH COLUMN, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, BALSUN, HEADLINED "RECORD BEARS OUT COLSON STORY ON KISSINGER."

2. WE MUST ALL WISH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, HENRY A. KISSINGER, WELL AS HE TRIES TO SPUR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT IN THE INTEREST OF CLEARING THE RECORD, WE MIGHT ALSO REVIEW THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S DENIAL OF CHARLES W. COLSON'S STATEMENT THAT MR. KISSINGER WAS EAGER TO BOMB HANOI IN DECEMBER, 1972.

3. AGAIN, WE ARE TREATED TO MR. KISSINGER'S MARVELOUS AMBIGUITY.

4. COLSON, ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, SAID RECENTLY THAT IN DECEMBER, 1972, HE SAW A CABLE FROM MR. KISSINGER, REFERRING UNCLASSIFIED

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TO TE BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NORTH

VIETNAMESE, WHICH READ: "START THE BOMBING IMMEDIATELY.  
THESE MADMEN HAVE DOUBLE-CROSSED US.,

5. COLSON ALSO CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON, ONE YEAR  
LATER, REMEMBERED THE CABLE AND REMARKED THAT MR. KISSINGER  
"REALLY IS UNSTABLE AT TIMES."

6. WELL, NATURALLY, MR. KISSINGER IS FURIOUS OVER THIS.  
HE TOLD NEWSMEN HE WOULDN'T "DIGNIFY" THE COLSON REMARKS  
WITH A COMMENT. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED  
THAT "THE RECORD DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY PART OF MR. COLSON'S  
STATEMENT."

7. WELL, OF COURSE IT DOESN'T. MR. KISSINGER WAS DIRECTOR  
OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, NOT SECRETARY OF STATE,  
AT THE TIME. MOREOVER, THE EASIEST WAY TO ASCERTAIN  
THE VERACITY OF COLSON'S REMARKS IS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE  
TO PRODUCE THE TAPES AND RECORDS OF CONVERSATIONS AND  
CABLES BETWEEN MR. NIXON AND MR. KISSINGER.

8. IT SO HAPPENED THAT I WAS RESEARCHING THE SAME PERIOD  
IN QUESTION, AND INTERVIEWED COLSON EXTENSIVELY, ON TAPE,  
ABOUT THE DECEMBER BOMBING. ACCORDING TO A TRANSCRIPT  
OF THAT INTERVIEW, COLSON TOLD ME:

9. MR. KISSINGER CABLED MR. NIXON DECEMBER 5, 1972,  
THAT "THINGS WEREN'T GOING WELL WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE  
(WHO) WERE WELCHING ON PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS THEY HAD  
ENTERED INTO, THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO  
THE PRISONERS. . . THAT HENRY WAS ADVOCATING THAT THE  
NEGOTIATIONS BE BROKEN OFF, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT GO ON  
NATIONAL TELEVISION AND EXPLAIN IT AND THAT WE RESUME  
BOMBING IN THE NORTH."

10. COLSON ALSO TOLD ME THAT MR. NIXON THOUGHT A NATIONAL  
TV APPEARANCE WOULD "MAKE THE NEGOTIATIONS MORE  
DIFFICULT." HE ADDED:

11. "HIS SOLUTION WAS TO KEEP HENRY NEGOTIATING. I  
KNOW FOR A FACT THAT HE KEPT HENRY NEGOTIATING FOR A  
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LONGER PERIOD THAN HENRY WANTED TO. THE PRESIDENT WANTED  
TO GO THAT EXTRA MILE WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, BEFORE  
THE BOMBING AND HE DID. . . . IT WAS ABOUT ANOTHER WEEK  
LATER THAT THE PRESIDENT MADE THE DECISION AND ORDERED  
THE BOMBING RESUMED."

12. OF COURSE, ALL THIS IS COLSON'S VERSION ON TELEVISION  
(LAST WEEK) AND TO ME (FEBRUARY 2, 1973). BUT IN

SUPPORT OF COLSON, I MUST ADD THAT THREE OTHER SENIOR  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, ALL PRIVY TO THOSE COMMUNICATIONS  
ON BOMBING, CONFIRMED ESSENTIALLY WHAT COLSON SAID.

13. NAMELY, THAT MR. KISSINGER WAS ANGRY AT LE DUC THO  
FOR DECEIVING HIM; THAT HE URGED PRESIDENT NIXON TO  
RESUME THE BOMBING, ONLY THIS TIME IT WAS TO BE WITH

B-52'S AND NOT THE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT USED BEFORE ON  
HANOI; AND THAT MR. KISSINGER URGED MR. NIXON TO GO  
ON NATIONAL TV TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO THE AMERICAN  
PUBLIC.

14. I DON'T THINK IN HIS HEART-OF-HEARTS, MR.  
KISSINGER WOULD DENY ANY OF THIS. MOREOVER, THE RECORD  
WILL SUBSTANTIATE IT. (END OF TEXT) INGERSOLL

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